

October 10, 2002

**Special Edition**  
**Zone T Deer Hunting Seasons**  
**CWD Sampling Efforts**

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**Special antlerless deer hunts to be held Oct. 24-27 and Dec. 12-15**

MADISON – Special hunting seasons for antlerless deer will be held in about a third of the state this fall in an effort to reduce the white-tailed deer population in the Wisconsin.

Wisconsin has been holding special Zone T hunts to reduce the deer herd since 1996. Zone T hunts are held in those Deer Management Units (DMUs) that state wildlife biologists have determined would not be brought to within 20 percent of established population goals with just traditional deer hunting seasons. Wisconsin's deer herd is currently estimated at about 1.6 million animals. Forty-one of the state's 132 DMUs have been designated as Zone T units this year, down from 76 units in 2001.

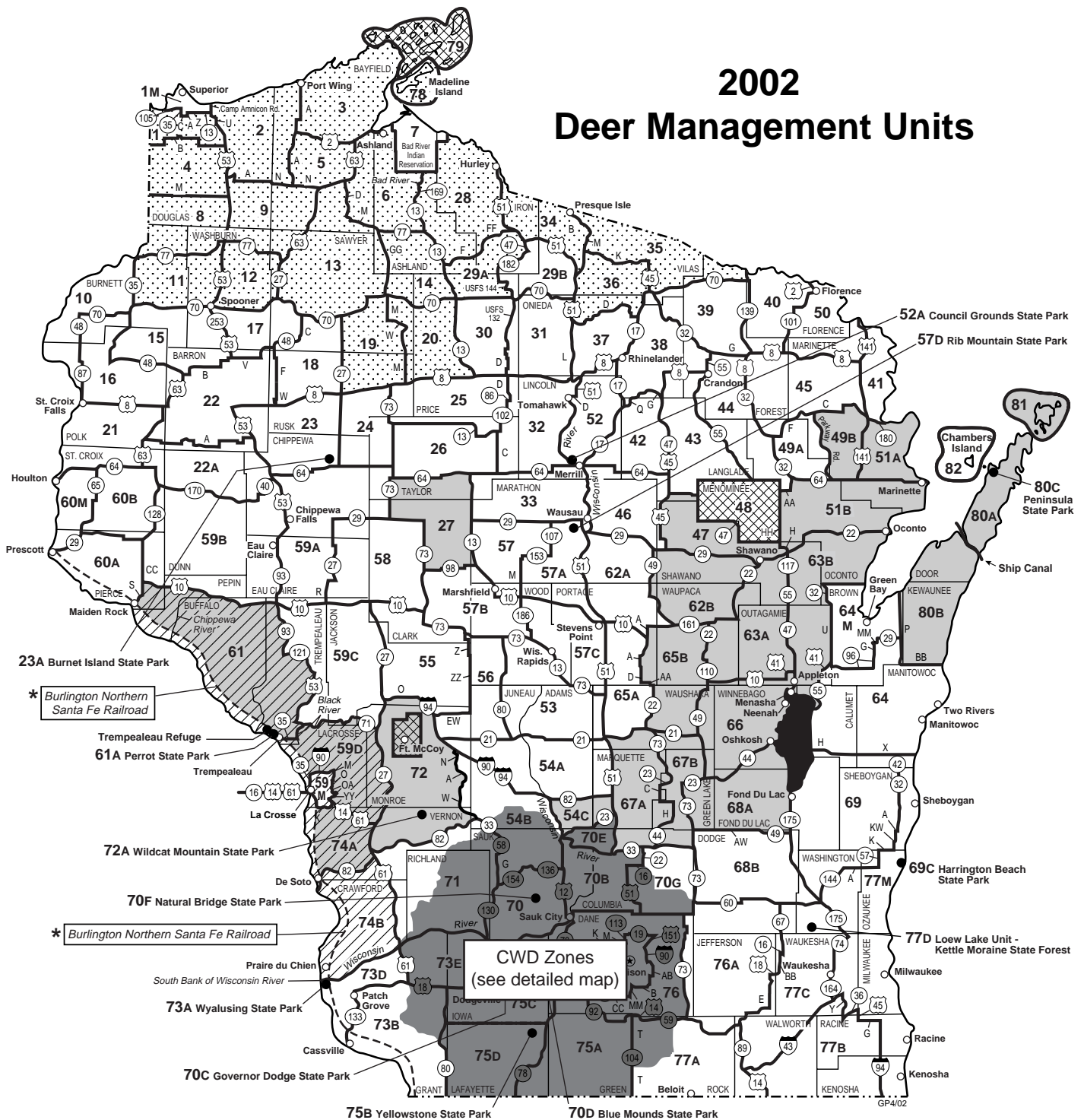
There will be two Zone T hunting periods this year: Oct. 24 through 27 and Dec. 12 through 15. Hunters automatically receive one free Zone T antlerless permit with each deer hunting license – gun and archery – that they purchase. These free tags may be used in any Zone T unit during any open deer hunting season to harvest an antlerless deer. In addition, a regular gun carcass tag is good for a deer of either sex in any Zone T unit during the regular gun season. Hunters who wish to acquire more antlerless tags for use in Zone T units may purchase unit-specific Bonus Antlerless Permits at any license vendor beginning in mid-September (\$12 each for residents and \$20 each for non-residents).

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# 2002 Deer Management Units



- Non-Quota Area  
 Oct. & Dec. Zone T Units (27, 47, 49B, 51A, 51B, 54C, 59D, 61, 62B, 63A, 63B, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 70A, 70E, 72, 74A, 75C, 75D, 80A, 80B, 81)  
 Oct. only Zone T Units (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 28, 29A, 34, 35, 36, 78)  
 Non Zone T Units  
 Mississippi River Block

### ***Northern and southern Zone T units***

A new component of the Zone T hunt this year are that there are now northern and southern Zone T units and hunts. In addition, due to the discovery of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Wisconsin, baiting of deer is now prohibited statewide for all types of deer hunting, and special rules are in place in DMUs in and around where CWD was discovered through sampling conducted last fall.

The Oct. 24 to 27 antlerless hunt will be held in all Zone T units statewide, but the Dec. 12 to 15 antlerless hunt will only be held in those Zone T units south of Hwy. 8. The late Zone T hunt is not being held in the north to avoid any possible conflicts with snowmobilers and cross-country skiers. Archery deer season will remain open during the Zone T seasons, but archers may only shoot antlerless deer during the special hunting seasons if they are hunting in during either Zone T hunts.

### ***Zone T registration***

Deer harvested during the October Zone T hunt must be registered no later than 5 p.m. Oct. 28 and deer harvested during the December Zone T hunt must be registered no later than 5 p.m. on Dec. 16. Deer must be registered in the DMU of kill or an adjacent unit.

### ***Blaze orange clothing***

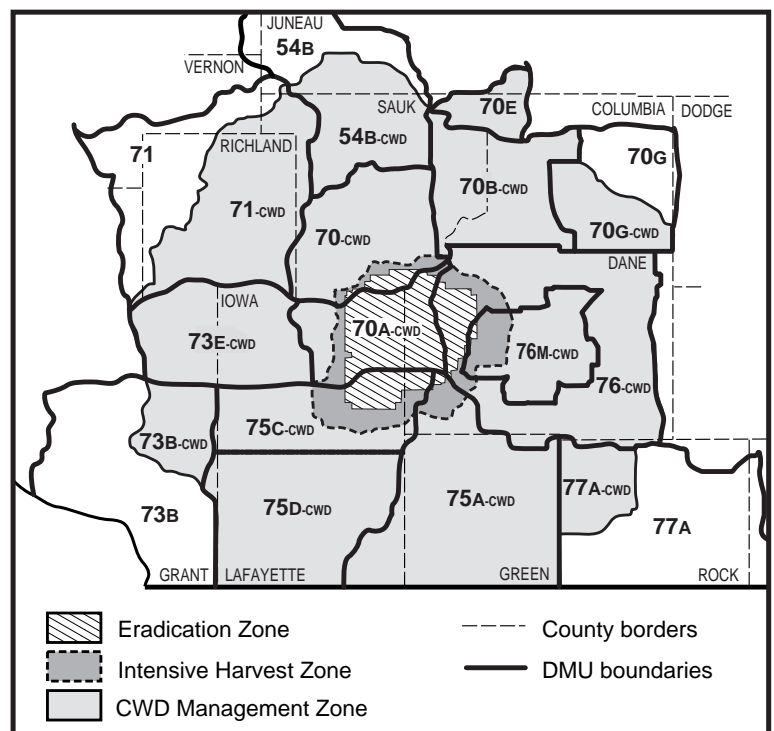
All hunters, except waterfowl hunters but including turkey hunters, must wear at least 50 percent blaze orange clothing – including a hat if worn – during the special Zone T hunts Oct. 24 to 27 and Dec. 12 to 15. Deer hunters should always be aware that waterfowl hunters and other people may be present, and caution should be exercised.

Because it is likely that many other people will also be enjoying the out-of-doors, especially in late October, state recreational safety specialists are urging all people to wear blaze-orange or other brightly colored clothing.

### ***CWD management units***

Hunters who intend to hunt in deer management units in and around where chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been identified will be subject to special regulations. The special regulations apply to the following DMUs: 54B, 70, 70A, 70B, 70E, 70G, 71, 73B, 73E, 75A, 75C, 75D, 76, 76M, and 77A.

Hunters in these units should refer to the Special DNR Chronic Wasting Disease Regulation pamphlet. The most significant requirement in these units is an “earn-a-buck” requirement. Hunters must shoot an antlerless deer in these units before being able to shoot an antlered deer. However, once a hunter has shot and registered an antlerless deer, the hunter will receive a buck permit, and may then shoot an antlered deer.



### **Gun deer season in CWD management and intensive harvest zones**

The CWD Intensive Harvest Zone will have a long gun deer season in 2002 that opens Oct. 24 and runs through Jan. 31. The CWD Intensive Harvest Zone, marked by major highways and surrounding the 389 square mile CWD Eradication Zone, encompasses western Dane-eastern Iowa Counties and a small portion of Sauk County.

In the CWD Management Zone but excluding the CWD Intensive Harvest Zone, the gun season will take place Oct. 24 through 27, Nov 23 through Dec. 15 and Dec. 21 through Jan. 3.

Hunters in the both the intensive harvest and management zones must first shoot an antlerless deer before they can harvest a buck during both the gun and archery seasons. Hunters are not limited to the number of antlerless deer they may harvest. For each antlerless deer registered, the hunter will receive a Special CWD Buck Deer Permit. Earn-a-buck permits may be used in either the gun or bow season.

All deer killed in the CWD Management Zone must be registered in the DMU of kill or an adjoining unit within the CWD Management Zone. All deer killed in the CWD Intensive Harvest Zone must be registered in the CWD Intensive Harvest Zone.

### ***Deer permits are free in CWD Eradication Zone***

Landowners in the CWD Eradication Zone are eligible to receive free permits to hunt deer either by gun or bow from Oct. 24 through Jan. 31. The CWD Eradication Zone is defined by sections of land within an established distance from where deer that tested positive for CWD were shot. The free permits enable landowners or their agents -- people landowners allow to use the permits on their land -- to kill deer without a license on land owned by the permit holder.

"We're asking people to do a tough job and kill all the deer in the Eradication Zone. It doesn't make much sense to make them buy a license to do so," said Tom Howard, DNR wildlife biologist, Dodgeville.

The permit holder or their agents won't need a deer hunting license to participate in the long deer hunting season that runs from Oct. 24 through Jan. 31, but they do need to meet the legal age and hunter safety requirements for obtaining a deer hunting license in Wisconsin. People not hunting under the authority of a landowner permit must have the proper hunting license.

New permits are being mailed to all landowners who received similar permits for harvesting deer during the four monthly, week-long shooting periods held this summer in the Eradication Zone. All those landowners, which number around 1,200, will receive new permits in time for the Oct. 24 opener.

Those landowners in the Eradication Zone who never applied for a summer permits will receive letters asking if they want permits, or they can get a permit for this fall from DNR Dodgeville Service Center, 1500 N. Johns St. or by calling (608) 935-1945.

Wildlife staff will be sampling 500 deer from all or part of each DMU in the CWD Management Zone, with the goal of completing the sampling in the Management Zone during the Oct. 24-27 season.

"Once a station has taken a representative sample, it will stop sampling deer. This could happen at some stations before Oct. 27, so hunters should bring their deer in right away," Howard said.

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The state agency is committed to sampling all deer in the CWD Intensive Harvest Zone. There are three deer collection stations in the Intensive Harvest Zone that will be open through Jan. 31. They are Norslein's Wood Works, Black Earth, Heck's Farm Market, Arena, and Eagle Mart Stop-N-Go, Barneveld. These stations only register and collect heads for CWD testing from deer shot in the Intensive Harvest Zone.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Howard, DNR wildlife biologist, Dodgeville: (608) 935-1918 or Greg Matthews, regional public affairs manager, Fitchburg: (608) 275-3317

### **CWD Management and Intensive Harvest Zones Deer Tagging Options**

**CWD Earn-a -Buck Permit (YELLOW TAG)** - This permit is valid only in the CWD Intensive Harvest and Management Zones. This permit is not weapon specific, but you must hold the appropriate license for the weapon type you use. One antlerless deer may be tagged with this permit. A buck may be tagged with this permit only if an unregistered antlerless deer has been legally harvested and tagged prior to the harvest of the buck, and the antlerless deer accompanies the buck until both are registered. These permits can be acquired at a rate of four per day per licensed hunter, and are available at all DNR Service Centers, and select license vendors and registration stations in and around the CWD Intensive Harvest and Management Zones.

**CWD Buck Permit (GREEN TAG)** - This permit is valid only in the CWD Intensive Harvest and Management Zones. This permit is not weapon specific, but you must hold the appropriate license for the weapon type you use. One buck deer only may be tagged with this permit. These permits are available only at registration stations within the CWD Intensive Harvest and Management Zones, and will only be provided to those hunters who register an antlerless deer that is not being used as authorization for the harvest of a buck accompanying the antlerless deer.

**Diseased Deer Replacement Permit (GRAY TAG)** Issued to hunters who harvest and tag a deer that is suspected of being diseased, provided that the entire deer is surrendered to the department or is disposed of as directed by the department. Available only from a DNR Wildlife Manager, Warden or designated department staff. Can be issued statewide, and may be used only for the type of deer authorized on the permit or license used to harvest and tag the suspected diseased deer.

**Zone T Carcass Tag** This tag is valid in the CWD Intensive Harvest and Management Zones (see below) or any Zone T unit statewide (for antlerless deer only). This permit is not weapon specific, but you must hold the appropriate license for the weapon type you use. ***In the CWD Intensive Harvest and Management Zones:*** One antlerless deer may be tagged with this permit. A buck may be tagged with this permit only if an unregistered antlerless deer has been legally harvested and tagged prior to the harvest of the buck, and the antlerless deer accompanies the buck until both are registered. These permits are automatically issued at no charge with deer hunting licenses. No additional Zone T tags are available.

**Gun Carcass Tag** - This tag is valid in the CWD Intensive Harvest and Management Zones (see below) or statewide in any deer management unit (following regular deer hunting regulations). This tag is weapon specific—only deer killed with a gun may be tagged with this tag. These tags are included with gun deer hunting privileges, which can be acquired statewide at ALIS sales locations, DNR Service Centers, on the Internet, or by phone.

***In the CWD Intensive Harvest and Management Zones:*** One antlerless deer may be tagged with this tag. A buck may be tagged with this tag only if an unregistered antlerless deer has been legally harvested and tagged prior to the harvest of the buck, and the antlerless deer accompanies the buck until both are registered.

**Archery Carcass Tag** This tag is valid in the CWD Intensive Harvest and Management Zones (see below) or statewide in any deer management unit (following regular deer hunting regulations). This tag is weapon specific—only deer killed with a bow may be tagged with this tag. These tags are included with archery hunting privileges, which can be acquired statewide at ALIS sales locations, DNR Service Centers, on the Internet, or by phone.

***In the CWD Intensive Harvest and Management Zones:*** One antlerless deer may be tagged with this tag. A buck may be tagged with this tag only if an unregistered antlerless deer has been legally harvested and tagged prior to the harvest of the buck, and the antlerless deer accompanies the buck until both are registered.

**Hunter's Choice and Unit Specific Bonus Permits *are not* valid in the CWD Zones. Antlerless deer harvested under the authority of an agricultural damage tag or CWD landowner permit in the CWD management zones may be used to earn the opportunity to harvest a buck in the CWD zones**

## **State Parks and Zone T and CWD hunts**

Most Wisconsin State Parks will be closed to firearm deer hunting during the Zone-T antlerless gun deer hunts Oct. 24-27 and Dec. 12-15, except for parks located within the CWD zones.

State parks fall into two categories depending on whether they are a deer management unit all to themselves, or are part of a larger deer management unit, explains Mark Brandt, state parks chief of operations.

It is important, Brandt adds, that people know the difference between state parks and state forests. Kettle Moraine, Black River, Brule River, Flambeau River, Governor Knowles, Point Beach and Northern Highland American Legion are all state forests and are open to hunting.

Zone T antlerless tags for parks that fall in Zone-T deer management units but are not designated as their own DMU may only be filled during the regular open hunting seasons for those parks. People should contact the property manager at any state park or recreation area they may be considering for a hunt in regard to seasons on those properties.

Access to parks that are designated as their own Deer Management Unit (DMU) and are Zone-T units is determined through a drawing during the hunter's choice/bonus application process that takes place each summer.

### ***State Parks within CWD zones***

There are eight state parks in the CWD management Zones. These parks will be open in varying time periods for gun and archery deer hunting throughout the fall.

No one can take part in these special CWD hunts without first getting a free state park deer hunting permit and property map identifying those areas closed to deer hunting within the park's boundaries. There is no limit on the park hunting permits.

Permits and property maps are available at the eight state park offices and DNR Service Centers. Vehicle admission (park) stickers will still be required to hunt in the parks and hunters are advised to check with the park office for details about all other park rules and camping information.

Since gun and archery hunts will often be running concurrent in these parks, blaze orange clothing is required of all hunters whenever a gun hunt is taking place.

The individual parks and hunting seasons are as follows:

- **Blue Mound State Park**, Blue Mounds, (608-437-5711) – Archery and gun Oct. 24-27 (hunting hours close at noon each day); Oct. 28-Dec. 15 (normal hunting hours apply).
- **Governor Dodge State Park**, Dodgeville, (608-935-2315) – Archery and gun Oct. 24-27 (hunting hours close at noon each day); Nov. 23-Dec. 15 (normal hunting hours apply).
- **Mirror Lake State Park**, Lake Delton, (608-254-2333) – Archery and gun Oct. 24-27 (hunting hours close at noon each day); gun Nov. 23-Dec. 15 (normal hunting hours apply).
- **Devil's Lake State Park**, Baraboo, (608-356-8301) – Archery and gun Oct. 24-27 (hunting hours close at noon each day); gun Nov. 23-Dec. 15 (normal hunting hours apply).
- **Natural Bridge State Park**, Baraboo, (608-356-8301) – Archery and gun Nov. 23-Dec. 15.
- **Yellowstone Lake State Park**, Blanchardville, (608-523-4427) – Gun Nov. 23-Dec. 15; archery and gun Nov 23-Jan.3.
- **Rocky Arbor State Park**, Wisconsin Dells, (608-254-8001) – Gun Nov. 23-Dec. 15; archery and gun Nov 23-Jan.3.
- **Browtown-Cadiz Springs State Recreation Area**, Monroe, (608-966-3777) – Archery and gun Nov. 23-Dec. 15.

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## **Baiting prohibited to help control CWD**

Hunters participating in any of this fall's white-tailed deer seasons in Wisconsin – including the special Zone T and CWD hunts – are prohibited from using bait to attract deer. The prohibition, which applies to archery and gun hunters, and even to non-hunters who just feed deer – is aimed at controlling the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Wisconsin.

As of July 3, 2002, it became illegal to feed or bait deer in Wisconsin. Prohibiting feeding and baiting is a part of the state's multiprong effort to control CWD and reduce the chance that it will become established in new areas of Wisconsin, state wildlife officials say.

Deer baiting, legal in Wisconsin until now, is the practice of putting out food that will attract deer for the purpose of shooting the deer during legal hunting seasons.

Under a CWD emergency rule, baiting is prohibited. What this means is any bait used to attract deer for hunting is prohibited. This includes mineral blocks and supplements, but does not effect the use of liquid scents, such as doe urine. Liquid scents are defined as any nonsolid material except honey that takes the shape of the container at 70 degrees. Any amount of liquid scent is allowed while hunting as long as it is not used to feed wild animals, such as molasses.

Food plots, normal agricultural practices and gardens are not regulated by this rule.

Violation of these rules could result in civil forfeitures of up to \$300 plus loss of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for up to three years for deer feeding and up to \$2,091 plus loss of privileges for deer baiting.

Landowners who find that hunters or others illegally placed bait or feed on their property will be responsible for removing it.

# # #

## **DNR looking for CWD help from state hunters**

FITCHBURG, Wis. – Department of Natural Resources' biologists are looking for Wisconsin deer hunters to help reduce herd numbers in the chronic wasting disease (CWD) Intensive Harvest and Management Zones.

"We're hoping to make a big push during the Oct. 24 to 27 opening of the special gun deer hunting seasons in these zones," says Mike Foy, DNR wildlife biologist for parts of Dane and Iowa Counties where CWD was first found in three wild deer taken last November over the opening weekend of the gun deer season.

The state agency is also asking for hunters to help on Nov. 23-24, the opening weekend of this year's traditional nine-day gun deer season.

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That's because management plans call for reducing the deer population to as close to zero as possible in an attempt to stop CWD in the 389 square mile Eradication Zone where 31 disease positive deer have been found to date.

Biologists also hope to drop the deer population down to 10 deer per square mile in the surrounding CWD Management Zone, which encompasses all or part of 15 deer management units (DMU).

"As hunters know, we can take large numbers of deer in a short time if hunter density is sufficient to keep deer moving during daylight hours," but maintaining hunter density over the long seasons prescribed this year will be difficult, points out Foy.

"That's why it's imperative hunters make a concerted effort to get out during these two openers," he said.

All deer taken in the CWD Intensive Harvest Zone will be tested for CWD (unless the deer won't yield a testable sample), along with 500 deer from each DMU in the CWD Management Zone. DNR will be operating drop-off sites at Arena, Barneveld and Black Earth for hunters who don't want to keep deer shot in the Intensive Harvest Zone.

Foy notes that there are over 60 state wildlife, fishery, natural area and Wisconsin Riverway properties open for public hunting in the two CWD Zones, encompassing tens of thousands of acres. Also, hunters will be given extraordinary access to four major state parks during the October opener and eight parks during the November opener.

"If hunters come down, they will have public land to hunt on," says Foy, who hopes to have information on many of these state properties available soon on the DNR's CWD Web page.

Of course, most of the land in the CWD Zones is privately owned and the agency does not know yet how many landowners will participate in herd reduction plans. Foy says he hopes that hunters can gain access to private land the old-fashioned way.

"Come down before the season, knock on the door, introduce yourself and ask politely. If CWD is to be stopped in Wisconsin, it will be in part because landowners made their land available to hunters," Foy says.

"We understand that some landowners see the need to dramatically reduce the deer herd as an extraordinary sacrifice of wildlife that they have worked hard to protect and manage, but if we are able to stop this terrible disease, it will be one of the greatest success stories in the history of wildlife conservation."

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Foy, DNR Wildlife Biologist, Fitchburg:  
(608) 273-6275

# # #



### **State-wide testing, not individual tests, provide best assurances to hunters**

MADISON – Since discovery of chronic wasting disease in Wisconsin in February 2002, wildlife biologists, veterinarians and epidemiologists have worked hard to define the extent of this fatal disease of deer and elk and to formulate plans to eradicate it. The effort is of huge interest to hunters and their families, agriculture, tourism interests and business.

“There is much to be learned about chronic wasting disease,” said Tom Hauge, chief of the DNR wildlife management bureau. “Over the past months veterinarians, wildlife biologists, wildlife population experts and statisticians on the state’s CWD Taskforce have formulated an ambitious plan to test 40,000 to 50,000 hunter-harvested deer for chronic wasting disease this fall. The results will answer the question on exactly where the disease exists in Wisconsin. And more importantly, where it doesn’t. The expansive sampling plan will determine with a high degree of assurance the presence or absence of the disease for every county in the state.”

The stakeholders in this riddle are the citizens of Wisconsin. Those stakeholders most closely tied to the whitetail - hunters, tourism, agriculture and business, are hoping for fast answers. One of the most widely held hopes is that every hunter wishing to could have his or her harvested deer tested for the disease. This just isn’t possible at this time according to wildlife health officials at the federal and state levels.

“The fact is, on-demand testing simply won’t be available for hunters this fall, says Hauge. “With our annual harvest on average of around 450,000 to 500,000 deer, there isn’t enough lab capacity in the entire country to handle the demand if every deer killed was to be tested.

“Upwards of 50,000 hunters whose deer is sampled this year will get a free test. That’s over three times more free tests than any other state is offering. Even if a hunter doesn’t get their deer tested, this high number of tests will tell them with a high degree of certainty that the disease does or doesn’t exist in the deer population in a given county. We hope that this level of assurance will reduce some of the concerns people may have regarding venison and the health of the deer herd in Wisconsin.”

Sampling for CWD testing will primarily take place during the October Zone T and November gun deer hunts. No matter what state is doing the testing, the goals are the same – to determine the extent and infection rate in deer or elk in the state. Experts stress that this is a disease surveillance effort and not a food safety test and that the disease causing agent has not been documented to affect people and has never been found in deer muscle tissue.

“There is a common misconception that a CWD test is a food safety test,” said DNR wildlife veterinarian Julie Langenberg. “The gold-standard immunohistochemical test and, for that matter, all the newer tests still in development, only show whether the disease causing agent is present at a detectable level in the tissue being tested, at the time it is tested.

“It is possible that CWD prions could be present in an animal below the level detectable by whatever test is used; a specific example would be a deer which was recently infected. A negative test result in this case may provide a false sense of security. However, we do know the risk of any deer in Wisconsin having CWD is very, very low and that there is no evidence that CWD can affect people.”

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### ***Testing procedures***

Sampling will take a tiered approach with the most intensive sampling taking place within the CWD intensive harvest zone where every deer harvested that yields a testable sample will be sampled.

A second tier will test approximately 500 deer over one year of age from each deer management unit in the larger CWD management zone, which extends about 40 miles out from the center of the infection. The objective with this sampling effort is to establish a baseline for later comparison to see if the infection is spreading outward.

In the third tier, approximately 500 deer will be tested for CWD from the remaining counties in the state. Some counties, where deer harvests are traditionally light, will be lumped together for the 500 deer sample. Deer heads will be removed for sampling at selected registration/sample-collection stations. Some stations will be sampled during the Oct. 24-27 Zone T hunt (where applicable) and some will be staffed during the November opening weekend. Stations will have quotas and will close once quotas are reached.

“The 500 deer per county/DMU number was not pulled out of the air,” said Hauge. “This sampling level was selected to give a very high probability that we will detect CWD in an area even if only one percent of the deer in that area are infected.”

### ***Most comprehensive CWD testing in the nation***

“Make no mistake about it. This will be the most intensive testing effort ever undertaken for a wildlife species,” Hauge said. “It will require the efforts of an estimated 800 to 1,000 men and women to register, remove heads, collect tissues and transport this number of samples.”

Deer heads will be collected at county collection stations then transported to regional processing centers where brain stem and lymph node tissue samples will be taken for shipping to a laboratory.

Outside of the eradication zone, hunters will be asked to volunteer heads from adult deer. Once the animal is registered, antlers can be cut off but not skull plates. Hunters whose deer are sampled will be given instructions on how to access the results from their deer. County results will be posted on the Internet about once per week as results start coming in and results post cards will be sent to each hunter once testing is completed.

If the testing effort is successful, Hauge says, Wisconsin will have more information on CWD in deer than any other state in the country. Wisconsin is considered a leader among states in monitoring and managing its herd, he adds.

Wisconsin will test 50,000 hunter-killed deer in 2002-2003 free of charge to hunters. While this represents about *1/8* of Wisconsin’s annual deer kill, it would be nearly the *entire* kill in the state of Colorado. In Colorado, 15,000 deer will be tested free of charge as part of the state’s surveillance program. It is the understanding of Wisconsin’s wildlife managers that the state of Colorado will subsidize testing of up to an additional 35,000 hunter-killed deer at a cost of \$17 a head.

With this level of testing, Wisconsin hunters will have a very high degree of assurance as to whether CWD is or is not present in their county.

For more information on CWD, see the DNR Web site at <<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us>> and click on the “Chronic Wasting Disease” link. For questions regarding captive deer and elk contact the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. For questions on human health and disease contact the Department of Health and Family Services.

**Collection Sites for Zone-T weekend**

County, by DNR City Region		Sampling location	Address
<b>DNR West Central Region</b>			
<b>Clark</b>	Owen	O-W Sports & Liquor	107 Central Ave.
<b>Buffalo</b>	Mondovi	Buffalo County Hwy. Dept.	360 S. Eau Claire St.
<b>Trempealeau</b>	Arcadia	Maloney's Baloney	113 E Main
<b>La Crosse</b>	West Salem	Karl's Sport Shop	W3449 Hwy. 16
<b>DNR Northeast Region</b>			
<b>Door</b>	Sturgeon Bay	The S-Stop	922 S. Duluth Ave. (CTH S)
	Brussels	Rouer's Grand Slam	9710 School Rd.
<b>Fond du Lac</b>	Ripon	Holiday Food and Sport	105 E. Main St.
	Rosendale	P.C. Travel Store	108 N. Main St.
<b>Green Lake</b>	Markesan	Grand River Convenience Store	544 N. Margret St.
	Princeton	Fox River Travel Plaza	811 Green Lake Rd. (Hwy.23)
<b>Kewaunee</b>	Luxemburg	Lee's Sports	1513 Main
	Algoma	Wiegand Amoco	616 4th St.
<b>Marquette</b>	Montello	DNR Ranger Station	363 Church St. (Hwy.22)
	Westfield	Pioneer Mini Store	244 N. Pioneer Rd.
	Briggsville	Pheasant Inn	W8650 Hwy.23
<b>Marinette</b>	Crivitz	T&T Fermanich Mobil	Hwy.141 and CTH W
	Wausaukee	Wausaukee Ranger Station	1025 Hwy. C
	Coleman	Steiner's Northwoods	Hwy.141 in the middle of town
<b>Oconto</b>	O. Falls	Lathrop's Hometown Station	7818 Hwy.22 West
	Abrams	Hi-Way Fuel	2857 Sot Rd. - Hwy.41/141 West frontage rd. of CTH D
<b>Outagamie</b>	Shiocton	Colwitz's Convenience Store	W7832 Hwy.54
	Leeman	Pierre's Store	N9302 Hwy.187
<b>Shawano</b>	Shawano	Qualheim's True Value	1345 E. Green Bay St.
	Birnamwood	Midway Corner Mart (Mobil)	Hwy.45 and CTH N
	Bowler	Bowler Foodland	E. Railroad St.
<b>Waupaca</b>	Marion	Fish Tails	301 N. Main
	Waupaca	Waupaca Truck Stop	1222 W. Fulton
	Iola	J.R.'s Sport Shop	195 E. State St.
<b>Waushara</b>	Wautoma	DNR Shop (old ranger station)	N2130 Hwy.22 South
	PoySippi	Madell's Lanes	N4319 Hwy.49
<b>Winnebago</b>	Omro	Omro Store	163 E. Main St.
	Neenah	Ridgeway One Stop	8510 Hwy.45 (Hwy.45 and Hwy.150)
<b>DNR Northern Region</b>			
<b>Ashland</b>	Ashland	DNR Office	2501 Golf Course Road
	Mellen	DNR Office	620 W. Layman
	Glidden	Glidden Food Mart	Hwy.13
	Clam Lake	Chequamegon Junction	Jct. Hwys. 77 and M
<b>Bayfield</b>	Iron River	Gateway	Jct. Hwys. 2 and A
	Barnes	DNR Office	Jct. Hwys. 27 and M
	Washburn	DNR Office	203 E Bayfield
	Drummond	Bear Country	Jct. Hwys. 63 and Wisconsin Ave.
<b>Burnett</b>	Danbury	Log Cabin Store	30217 Hwy.35/77
	Siren	Big Mike's Sport Shop	6659 Hwy.70

**DNR Northern Region (cont.)**

<b>Douglas</b>	Pattison	Pattison State Park	6294 S. State Rd. 35
	Superior	Holiday Station	4827 East 2nd St.
	Brule	DNR Office	6350 S. Ranger Road
	Gordon	DNR Office	Co Hwy.Y
<b>Iron</b>	Mercer	DNR Office	Highway 51 North
	Hurley	Bert's Union 76	Highway 51 South
<b>Oneida</b>	Hazelhurst	Hazelhurst ICO	Hwy.51
<b>Price</b>	Park Falls	Bridge Bait and Tackle	1414 4th Street
	Phillips	Ball Amoco	165 S. Lake Ave.
	Catawba	Catawba Farm Supply	Hwy. 8
<b>Rusk</b>	Glen Flora	Edming Oil	W4278 Hwy.8 & Lawrence St.
<b>Sawyer</b>	Hayward	Super Sports	W16096 Hwy. 63 S.
	Winter	Thran's Fin & Feather	W6635 Hwy.70
<b>Vilas</b>	Eagle River	Eagle River Ranger Station	1861 Hwy.45 N.
	Manitowish Waters	Dietz's Phillips 66	160 Cty. Rd W
	Star Lake	Star Lake Store	7851 County Rd. K
<b>Washburn</b>	Spooner	DNR Service Center	810 West Maple St.

**DNR South Central Region**

<b>Columbia</b>	Pardeeville	Pardeeville Sport Marine	Hwy.33
	Portage	Blyston Repair Service	Hwy.33
	Poynette	Poynette Amoco Food Shop	306 Hwy.51
	Rio	LR's Place	116 Lincoln Ave.
	Wisconsin Dells	Interstate Amoco	650 Frontage Road South
<b>Dane</b>	Wyocena	Wyocena Bar	110 S. Washington
	Black Earth	Norslein's Wood Works	4738 Hwy.78
	Marshall	Spirits Etc.	510 Park Plaza
	McFarland	BJ's Roadside Tavern	2515 Hwy.51
	Boscobel	DNR Wilson Nursery	5350 State Hwy. 133 E
<b>Grant Green</b>	Albany	County E Locker	N6833 County E
	Juda	Rackow Family Sausage	N1943 Schindler Road
<b>Iowa</b>	Arena	Heck's Farm Market	7266 Hwy.14
	Barneveld	Eagle Mart Stop-and-GO	8029 Hwy.151 (Hwy.18/151)
	Mineral Point	Five Point Cheese and Liquor	319 S. Commerce Street
<b>Lafayette</b>	Highland	Palan's Outpost	1358 County Road BH
	Darlington	Darlington Mini Mart	Hwy.23 S - 81 W
	South Wayne	Holverson Meat Processing	103 Center Street
<b>Richland</b>	Richland Center	Walsh's Ace Hardware	1525 Bohman Drive
<b>Rock Sauk</b>	Evansville	Ringhand Meats	603 E. Main Street
	Baraboo	Viking Express II	818 8th Street
	Plain	Straka Meats	915 Alma Avenue
	Reedsburg	Viking Express I	1375 E Main Street
	Spring Green	Mr. And Mrs. T's	E5016 Hwy.14

**DNR Southeast Region**

There are no Zone T units in this region and  
no sampling stations open during the Zone T Season

## **Hunter Guidelines for Venison Use**

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**  
**October 2002**

### **In areas of Wisconsin outside CWD Management Zones**

Hunters should plan to use their deer the same way they have in past seasons. Once you legally hunt, tag and register your deer, these options generally include:

- Keep and process the venison for consumption. Hunters may choose to process and freeze the venison and wait for the results of statewide CWD surveillance testing.
- Give the venison to other family members or to neighbors.
- Donate excess venison to the food pantry program. Many counties have participating food pantries this year.

If you shoot a deer that appears to be sick, you may bring it to a registration station and get a replacement tag. The DNR will take possession of the carcass for disposal.

Any butcher waste you generate by processing your deer should be disposed of through your regular trash collection or taken to a licensed landfill. If disposal at a licensed landfill is not an option, a hunter may dispose of unbagged butcher waste on the land with the landowner's permission. In these cases, butcher waste should be disposed of on the land in an environmentally sound manner. Bury the waste deeply enough to prevent scavengers from digging it up, and keep butcher waste out of a wetland, pond, stream or lake and away from private wells.

### **In the CWD Management Zone**

Hunters should plan to use their deer the same way they have in the past. Once you legally hunt, tag and register your deer, you may:

- Keep and process the venison for consumption. Hunters may choose to process and freeze the venison and wait for the results of statewide CWD surveillance testing.
- Give the venison to other family members or to neighbors.
- Pantry programs will not be accepting venison donations from deer harvested in the CWD Management Zone or Intensive Harvest Zone

If you shoot a deer that appears to be sick, you may bring it into a registration station and get a replacement tag.

Any butcher waste you generate by processing your deer should be disposed of through your regular trash collection or taken to a licensed landfill. If disposal at a licensed landfill is not an option, a hunter may dispose of unbagged butcher waste on the land with the landowner's permission. In these cases, butcher waste should be disposed of on the land in an environmentally sound manner. Bury the waste deeply enough to prevent scavengers from digging it up, and keep butcher waste out of a wetland, pond, stream or lake and away from private wells.

Since the State of Wisconsin Interagency CWD Task Force is asking hunters to harvest more deer than most hunters can use in the effort to eradicate CWD, the Task Force does ask that hunters first consider the options listed above.

If these are not practical, carcass and butcher waste disposal sites are being provided for individual hunters at the following CWD Management Zone locations (dates and hours of operation at each of these sites will be available soon):

- **Dane County** - Goose Lake Wildlife Area parking lot, Town of Deerfield, Lot on Missouri Road 2 miles north of County Highway BB
- **Green County** - Albany Wildlife Area parking lot, Highway E and the Sugar River, on the west side of Sugar River, ¾ mile east of Highway EE.
- **Lafayette County** - Yellowstone Wildlife Area, Town of Fayette, 9130 Highway F (South side of Highway F, 200 yards south of intersection of F and English Hollow Road).
- **Iowa County** - Ron Benish Property, Town of Highland – three miles south of Highland on the west side of State Highway 80 (5 miles north of Cobb on west side of State Highway 80).
- **Richland County** - O'Brien Brothers Site, Highway 14 East on south edge of Richland Center across from Wonderlube on People's Drive behind O'Brien Brothers Warehouse
- **Sauk County** - Dell Creek Wildlife Area parking lot, Town of Dellona – on Highway 23, 6½ miles east of Reedsburg (5½ miles south of 90/94 on north side of Highway 23).
- **Rock County** - Evansville Wildlife Area parking lot, Town of Union – 1.5 miles south of Highway 14 on Highway M, then ¼ mile to west on Marsh Road, then ¼ mile to northwest on access lane to parking lot.
- **Columbia County** - Pine Island Wildlife Area parking lot, Town of Caledonia – south side of Tritz Road (1½ miles northwest on Tritz Road and Highway 33)

### **In the Intensive Harvest Zone (and Eradication Zone)**

**Deer killed in the Intensive Harvest Zone** (and the Eradication Zone) must be registered at one of three sites in the zone:

- **Arena** - Heck's Farm Market, 7266 STH 14, (608-220-8579),
- **Barneveld** - Eagle Mart Stop-N-Go, 8029 STH 151, (608-220-8742),
- **Black Earth** - Norslein's Wood Works, 4738 STH 78, (608-220-7057).

Deer in the Intensive Harvest Zone (and the Eradication Zone) will be tested for CWD. If, after registering a deer, the hunter decides not to keep the deer, the hunter may leave it at the registration station. The DNR has contracted for carcass cold-storage, hauling and disposal.

It is up to the individual and his or her family to decide what to do with a deer harvested from the Intensive Harvest Zone. In making that decision, the CWD Task Force suggests the following factors be considered:

- Additional testing of approximately 1,500 deer in the Intensive Harvest Zone reveals that only **two to three deer** out of every 100 tested are CWD-positive.
- Since deer harvested in this zone will be sampled for CWD, hunters can process their deer as they have done in the past, freeze it, then wait for testing results to make a decision about whether to eat the venison.
- If you choose to keep a deer, the Task Force suggests that butcher waste be kept within the Intensive Harvest Zone as a precaution against spreading CWD outside its current area.
- Butcher waste can be dropped off at any of the Intensive Harvest Zone registration sites for disposal.

## Hunters and landowners the front line in beating CWD

By DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell

As fall approaches, there is one issue forefront to all conservationists in the state: Chronic Wasting Disease. Having a fatal disease in our herd truly threatens our traditions and our quality of life.

You need to know that that your Department of Natural Resources is dedicated to trying to eradicate this disease. It's a tough goal, but to aim lower would be irresponsible.

To accomplish our goal, we are operating under a strong management plan based on three principles:

Science – we have looked at what science shows about this disease and its spread. We can't inoculate against it. There is no cure. And there is no reliable test for live animals.

The only way to attack the disease is to capture and remove it within its host – the white-tailed deer. In short, all the science points to killing deer at the source of the infection before the disease spreads. And moving swiftly and aggressively increases our chances of success. Interestingly enough, this is a tactic that Aldo Leopold endorsed and recommended as justified and necessary in order to protect a species against disease. Killing animals hosting an infection was successful in fighting foot and mouth disease in California deer in 1913.

Counsel – much has been written about Colorado and other western states that have had CWD in free-ranging herds since the 1960s. Those states took a wait-and-see approach with CWD. When deer first started showing up sick, they thought it was a nutritional problem. They now have areas considered endemic – where the disease will never be eradicated. They wish they had it to do over.

Those states have counseled us strongly to act aggressively and quickly to stop the spread of the infection and kill the deer in the infected area. Indeed, when CWD hopped the continental divide in Colorado and showed up in a disease “hot spot” on the western slope, Colorado took its own counsel and began killing all elk, white-tailed and mule deer in the infected area.

And Cooperation – to be successful, we must work closely with our sister agencies to share information on game farms, testing animals and on human health. We must give you the facts about food safety so you can make an informed decision. We must increase lab capacity so we can test our herd to the extent needed to be confident we have the disease contained.

Scientists know that an over-populated deer herd is more at risk for disease spread, and we rely on Wisconsin's hunters to control our over-abundant deer. So most of all, to be successful, we must work in partnership with you – landowners and hunters – to find and implement solutions. We can set the direction and provide science, but our front line in beating CWD is hunters and landowners willing to get out in the woods and open their land and continue their role of helping us manage the herd.

It is no secret that our deer license sales are down. Frankly, I believe a lot of hunters are taking a wait and see approach to hunting this year. In a normal year, we sell one-third of our deer licenses the week before the season; this year it could be half.

In the last couple weeks, I attended a series of public listening session across the state where I asked the question, what will it take for you, the long-standing hunter conservationist, to be comfortable out in the fields and woods this year deer hunting? What do you need from DNR and other state agencies to reach that comfort level? Whatever it is, we will do our best to provide it. Call us or write us, talk to our staff.

This fall Wisconsin faces perhaps its most critical hunting season in its history. Working as partners we have the best chance of beating CWD. We ask for your participation and your support.

## **NRB adopts resolution to encourage all hunters in fight against chronic wasting disease**

MADISON – Underscoring the important responsibility that hunters have in helping control the spread of chronic wasting disease in the state’s deer population, the state Natural Resources Board unanimously passed a resolution urging all hunters “statewide to join us in fighting to eradicate CWD by hunting this year” and in the future.

NRB member Herb Behnke of Shawano introduced the resolution during the September 25 meeting in Grantsburg.

“The white-tailed deer is Wisconsin’s number one wildlife species for both hunting and non-hunting citizens,” Behnke read to the Board. “The discovery of chronic wasting disease in Wisconsin not only threatens our time-honored deer hunting tradition, but also puts at risk viewing and enjoyment opportunities for hundreds of thousands of residents and tourists.”

Scientists believe that if left unchecked, CWD will cause a long-term population decrease in the state’s deer herd, the effects of which will be felt by many including hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, the tourism industry and many other businesses in the state.

“Hunters are the backbone of conservation through activism, biological management and financial support,” Behnke said. “Wisconsin residents are depending on hunters to take the lead in conserving one of our greatest natural resources. Hunter participation is essential to the CWD eradication effort.”

The board members also recognized the difficulties faced by people who live within the CWD intensive harvest zone and urged them to be particularly aggressive in helping to eradicate CWD to facilitate the rebuilding of a healthy deer herd throughout the state.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Darrell Bazzell, Secretary (608) 266-2121 or  
Barbara Zellmer, Executive Assistant (608) 266-2121

### **NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD RESOLUTION –September 25, 2002 MEETING AT GRANTSBURG, WISCONSIN**

The white-tailed deer is Wisconsin’s number one wildlife species for both hunting and non-hunting citizens. The discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Wisconsin not only threatens our time honored deer hunting tradition, but also puts at risk viewing and enjoyment opportunities for hundreds of thousands of residents and tourists. CWD is caused by a misshapen prion and is invariably fatal in deer. The best available science indicates that if left unchecked, CWD will cause a serious long-term population decline in our deer herd. Department biologists recommend aggressive and immediate local elimination of deer in the Intensive Harvest Zone combined with substantial density reduction in the surrounding area (the CWD Management Zone) as our best chance to eradicate CWD from Wisconsin. The citizens of Wisconsin are depending on traditional conservationists (hunters) to take the lead in conserving one of our greatest natural resources. Hunter participation is essential to the CWD eradication effort.

**Whereas**, the white-tailed deer is Wisconsin’s most popular wildlife species to all citizens, and

**Whereas**, deer hunting, a deeply held family oriented tradition in Wisconsin, is threatened by CWD, and

**Whereas**, hunters are the backbone of conservation through activism, biological management, and financial support, and

**Whereas**, the health of Wisconsin’s white-tailed deer herd is important to hunting, wildlife viewing, tourism, and many industries in Wisconsin, and

**Whereas**, the eradication of CWD in Wisconsin will be yet another example of the state’s position as a conservation leader,

**Therefore**, be it resolved that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Board on 25 September, 2002 requests that all hunters statewide join us in fighting to eradicate CWD by hunting deer this year and in years to come. We empathize with the hardships faced by hunters and citizens in the Intensive Harvest Zone and we urge them to be particularly aggressive in eradicating CWD as soon as possible to facilitate the rebuilding of a healthy deer herd throughout the state.



## **Landowner, hunter help key to controlling CWD**

**By Tom Hauge, director DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management**

Deer hunting has a long tradition in Wisconsin. In fact, one in seven Wisconsinites hunt deer. For many people in Wisconsin, deer hunting is a family activity that is passed from parents to sons and daughters. It is a very special time that many of us look forward to each fall.

All told, it's big business, too. Estimates are that direct and spin-off deer hunting expenditures pump \$1.5 billion into our state economy.

But things undeniably "feel" different this fall. We have chronic wasting disease (CWD) in our free-ranging deer herd. And for many of you, this has led to an intense interest in CWD and what we are doing as a state to eradicate the disease.

For the next several weeks, I will be answering questions I am hearing from hunters about CWD in hopes of bringing you some measure of confidence about hunting deer this fall.

Since day one, the question I have heard over and over again is: How can I help?

That you ask the question is a morale booster for our staff who have been out there dealing with CWD 24/7 since we first were notified of its presence on Feb. 28, 2002.

First and foremost, we need you to get out and hunt and keep the deer herd in check. Hunting is our single most valuable tool in managing Wisconsin's deer herd. We estimate that this fall there are 1.65 million deer in the state. We have to get down to goals – a herd that is over goal is at higher risk.

If you are a landowner, particularly in the eradication or management zones, please get out and hunt, or open your land to other hunters or DNR sharpshooters. If we end up with a checkerboard of deer refuges in the eradication zone, eradication will be a longer and harder process, and has less chance of succeeding. Deer quickly find the land where hunting is not taking place.

Read up on the disease. We have developed a number of brochures and have been holding meetings with sports groups statewide. Much is out on the DNR Web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/>. Just click on "Chronic Wasting Disease" at the bottom of the page. Then, help us share the facts about CWD. For people in Wisconsin, deer can be an emotional topic. We need to make decisions and act on facts and science.

(more)

During the summer we held four shooting periods in the CWD eradication zone in Dane and Iowa counties. Hunter conservationists and landowners participated and helped us get a better handle on CWD. We took many samples, verified the infection rate seems to be 3 in 100 deer, gained valuable lab specimens, and trained our staff for more extensive statewide sampling this fall.

The summer shooting periods were a prelude to fall efforts to eradicate deer in the CWD intensive management zone.

I was raised to respect nature and with the ethic to USE what we kill, not to waste our natural resources. Like many of you I am deeply saddened about having to kill the deer because of an infection. The eradication plan is tough medicine, but as one of Aldo Leopold's daughters said it is a plan that Leopold, himself, would have advocated. He taught us that the health of the deer herd has to outweigh consideration for individual animals.

Outstate, you can also help us by abiding by the new baiting and feeding ban that was put in place to help slow the spread of CWD. We know this means hunters will have to change long-standing practices and even hunting locations. We appreciate their contribution too.

The hunting and conservation community has really rallied to our support. A coalition of hunters is working to help "Get out the hunt." Whitetails Unlimited has donated important research equipment to our effort. In the eradication zone, landowners are signing up for sharpshooters. Statewide, hunters are volunteering for our special fall statewide disease sampling effort (the subject of my next column), and many of you have offered advice and encouragement.

Your help – landowners and hunters – is critical to beating CWD in Wisconsin. We need you to get out in the woods and fields, to make it your responsibility to seek out and base your hunting decisions on sound science, to open your land, and to continue your role of helping us manage the herd.

# # #

## Controlling deer diseases in Wisconsin

MADISON – Controlling the deer herd, state wildlife health officials say, is the most effective tool in controlling the spread of many diseases, like chronic wasting disease, through the state's deer herd. Because of this, Wisconsin needs hunters to get out and hunt this year more than ever.

“It doesn't matter if it's archery season, Zone T, or gun deer season, we need hunters to reduce deer numbers around the state,” said Julie Langenberg, Department of Natural Resources wildlife veterinarian. “High deer populations enhance the potential transmission of a variety of diseases.”

Infectious disease transmission is enhanced when high deer numbers and excessive feeding cause congregation and prolonged contact of deer. Because of this, the DNR encourages hunters to continue shooting deer and has also banned the practices of baiting and feeding.

Deer diseases have been making the headlines all year leading up to the deer hunting season. Some hunters are wary about shooting deer because of it. However, hunters play an important role in controlling the outbreaks and transmission of diseases in the deer herd by reducing the population density and the chances that herd members will come into close contact with one another.

There are four major infectious diseases that are of concern to the health of Wisconsin's approximately 1.6 million deer. They are:

- **Chronic wasting disease (CWD)** – Nervous system disease of deer and elk. Believed to be caused by infectious abnormal proteins called prions. The disease-causing prions accumulate in brain cells, killing them, and creating sponge-like holes in the brain. Signs of CWD in deer or elk include: weight loss, isolation, blank facial expression, nervousness, excessive salivation, teeth grinding, increased drinking and frequent urination. Believed to be spread by contact between a healthy deer and an infected deer. Though it might also be spread indirectly, like at a contaminated feed site. There is no evidence that humans can contract the disease.
- **Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD)** – A viral disease transmitted by biting midges. Signs of infection are variable but could include: depression, fever, respiratory distress, and swelling of the head, neck, and tongue. Deer that are infected for a prolonged time may show lameness, reduced activity and emaciation. Disease is seasonal, usually occurring in late summer and early fall, as frost and cold weather kills the midges. First documented case of EHD in Wisconsin occurred September 2002.
- **Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)** - Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious respiratory disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis*. TB has been diagnosed in captive elk herds in Wisconsin. However, it has not been found in the wild deer herd; 2000 deer have been tested.

(more)

Transmission of bovine TB to people can occur, but it is rare and usually occurs in patients who are immunocompromised by other diseases or treatments. TB is generally transmitted through the air by coughing and sneezing, and it is highly unlikely a person would contract the disease from field dressing or eating the meat of an infected deer.

- **Cranial Abscessation Syndrome (CAS)** - Brain abscesses are commonly caused by a bacteria, *Actinomyces pyogenes*, that enters a wound in the velvet of a buck's antlers, through a broken antler, or through other head skin. After entering through a wound, the bacteria can eat through the skull causing an abscess in the brain. Adult antlered deer in Wisconsin are commonly diagnosed with CAS. Bucks appear blind, are uncoordinated, and may show abnormal behavior such as aggression toward people and stationary objects, or not moving when approached by people or dogs. Signs of CAS include swollen eyes, broken antlers weeping fluid, swollen ankles, foot sores, and lameness. Pus may be observed at the base of antlers (pedicles) or in eye sockets.

Department wildlife staff has monitored the herd for these diseases for decades. Further sampling will continue this fall.

The DNR will be sampling nearly 50,000 deer statewide this year for chronic wasting disease. All deer shot within the eradication zone will be tested for CWD. Over 500 deer from each deer management unit (DMU) within the CWD management zone will be tested. Each county in the rest of the state, or county groups where harvests are generally low, will have over 500 deer sampled as well.

Each of the 50,000 deer sampled for CWD will also be screened for visible signs of bovine tuberculosis. If a deer is suspected of having TB, samples will be sent to the lab for confirmation.

Wildlife Health Team staff are discussing plans for further testing for epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in the south-central region of the state where postmortem tests confirmed EHD in a deer this fall.

"Every hunter plays a role in keeping the Wisconsin deer herd healthy," Langenberg said. "Not only do we need hunters to shoot deer to help control the population, we also need their cooperation in order to collect necessary samples from their deer."

Hunters should help bring sick deer to the attention of DNR officials. If a hunters sees a deer displaying signs of illness mentioned above, he or she is encouraged to shoot the deer (if during a legal hunting season) and bring it to a DNR registration station or at least report findings to the nearest DNR office. A replacement tag will be given to any hunter bringing in a deer that was shot because illness was suspected.

For more information on white-tailed deer health, visit the DNR Wildlife Management pages at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/>. Click on "Wildlife Health," followed by "Current Issues in Wildlife Health."

# # #

### **Youth deer hunt offers opportunity to young hunters**

MADISON – Young hunters have a special one-day hunt all to themselves during the upcoming Zone T antlerless season set for Oct. 24-27. On Saturday, Oct. 26, hunters age 12 to 15 may harvest an antlerless deer in any deer management unit (except state parks and other non-quota units) that isn't already part of the Zone T season.

The special youth hunt is open to those youngsters who possess a hunter education certificate and valid gun deer license.

"This is a terrific opportunity to take a kid hunting," said Keith Warnke, wildlife biologist and outdoor heritage coordinator with the Department of Natural Resources. "The weather is usually warmer than during the regular season and there are fewer hunters in the woods. All in all, it's a good time to introduce deer hunting to a youngster or to brush up on skills with a young hunter who has only been out a couple times."

During the upcoming youth hunt:

- The bag limit is one antlerless deer per hunter's choice or antlerless deer permit.
- Those who are first-time hunter education graduates may use their certificate in place of a hunter's choice permit.
- Antlered deer may not be harvested unless the hunter holds a valid Class A or C disabled permit issued by the DNR.
- Allowable types of firearms are those authorized on the first day of the regular gun season.
- Hunters must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.
- One adult may not supervise more than two hunters.
- All other hunting regulations apply.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Warnke (608) 264-6023

# # #

### **Hunter safety key when many outdoor enthusiasts are afield during the same period**

MADISON – Wisconsin's hunting safety officials are reminding hunters to keep the safety basics in mind this season as bow and gun hunters converge in search of a variety of game.

"Whether hunting deer or other game species by gun or by bow, safety should be a top priority for every hunter," said Tim Lawhern, hunter education administrator with the Department of Natural Resources.

There are a number of safety considerations – even more this year with the increasing number of cases of animal-borne diseases – that hunters should be aware of before they head out to their favorite hunting spot.

(more)

## Blaze Orange

All hunters, with the exception of waterfowl hunters, are required to follow blaze orange requirements when hunting in Zone T management areas. Safety officials say it's a good idea to wear some blaze orange even if you're hunting in an area adjacent to a Zone T unit.

And even though waterfowlers are not required to wear blaze orange while hunting, safety experts agree that it's a good idea to wear some blaze orange when walking to or from the hunting location. Other hunters in the area

"At least half of the clothing above the waist must be blaze orange," Lawhern said. "And if you're wearing a hat, that too must be at least 50 percent blaze orange."

Lawhern said discolored or stained blaze orange clothing might not meet state law requirements and urged hunters to take a good look at their gear long before they are ready to hunt.

"Take a good look at all your hunting clothes weeks before your planned hunt," Lawhern said. "If anything needs replacing, you'll have ample time to take care of it."

## Tree Stands

"Nationwide, about one out of three hunters will fall from a tree stand sometime during his or her hunting career," Lawhern said. "Most of them fall when they're climbing into or out of the stand, so it's especially important to use caution during those times."

Lawhern recommends that hunters always maintain three points of contact – two hands and one foot, or one hand and two feet – on the ladder when climbing into or out of the stand.

Falls also occur for a variety of other reasons, including a weakness in the stand's structure, incorrect installation or failure to use a fall restraint device.

"Whether or not to use a safety belt or a full harness is up to the individual hunter," Lawhern said. "What's more important is that the hunter keep a very short tether between himself and the tree. A fall restraint device doesn't do any good if you end up hanging five feet below your stand, unable to pull yourself back up."

Lawhern reminds hunters that if they are hunting on public land, they must be careful not to damage any trees. If hunting on public land, it is illegal to use screw-in stands or steps, or cut branches to make shooting lanes. In addition, you must completely remove your stand from the property at the end of each hunting day.

Lawhern offers additional advice for treestand hunters:

- Check permanent tree stands every year before hunting from them and replace any worn or weak lumber before it breaks.
- Inspect portable stands for loose nuts and bolts.
- Use a haul line to raise and lower your equipment.
- Select a tree to hunt from before the season. Some mishaps occur as hunters are hurrying to set up their stands in the dark on opening morning.
- Make sure someone else knows the location of your tree stand and knows when you will be hunting.

(more)

## Hunter Health

The thrill of the hunt and the physical exertion that it sometimes requires can be hazardous to a hunter's health, especially if the hunter already has a medical condition.

"Just seeing a deer can cause a hunter's heart rate to more than double," Lawhern said.

"Dragging a 150 pound deer through the woods can be even harder on a person."

Game wardens do not keep track of the number of people who die from heart attacks while hunting, but Lawhern says he hears of several each year, not all of them fatal.

"Being a responsible hunter means being prepared," Lawhern said. "Staying in good physical condition – or recognizing limitations – is important and adds to the enjoyment of the hunt."

Dressing in layers will help avoid overheating during times of exertion and it's a good idea to drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.

Lawhern advises people to take it easy during their hunt if they're not used to even moderate physical exercise. And he offers these other "healthy" tips:

- Get help to drag a deer out of the field or use a plastic game sled or cart to make the job easier.
- Stop what you're doing and get medical help if you experience any of the warning signs of a heart attack such as pressure in the chest, pain spreading to the shoulders, neck or arms, chest discomfort with lightheadedness, fainting, sweating or nausea, or shortness of breath.

Protecting yourself against mosquitoes and ticks is also important. West Nile virus and Lyme disease are spread by these biting insects and hunters put themselves in those pests' environment whenever they take to the woods.

West Nile virus is usually spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. While some game birds – Canada goose, pheasant and mallard ducks – can carry the disease, the risk of transmission from bird to human through contact with blood is minimal. West Nile virus can be fatal, but less than 1 percent of people bitten by an infected mosquito will become seriously ill.

"Hunters should take precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes," Lawhern said. "Use insect repellent and limit the amount of exposed skin. If you're really concerned about dressing birds, wear gloves when handling them."

Fortunately, cold weather should soon put an end to most mosquitoes, further reducing one's chances of becoming infected with WNV.

Lyme disease, rarely fatal to people, is transmitted through the bite of ticks. In Wisconsin, the deer tick is the common carrier.

"Ticks come with the territory," Lawhern said. "Especially for deer hunters who often encounter them while field dressing their deer. Make sure you check yourself after a day in the field to see if any ticks have found a new host."

"It's not impossible for Wisconsin to see a hunting season without an injury," Lawhern said. "We'll get there the first time that every hunter follows all the rules of firearm safety, only shoots where and when it's safe, and, if hunting from a treestand, follows all the safety precautions."

There were 51 reportable hunting incidents in Wisconsin last year, including six fatal hunting incidents. Five of those fatal shooting incidents occurred during the regular gun deer season; one happened during the muzzleloader season.

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Department of Natural Resources – CE/6  
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## Special Antlerless Deer Hunt Oct. 24-26 and Dec. 12-15

A special firearm hunt for antlerless deer will be conducted in designated Zone T Deer Management Units (shaded in map) throughout Wisconsin from Oct. 24-27 and in units south of Hwy. 8 on Dec. 12-15. People using county, state, and national forests and trails should expect to encounter deer hunters during these periods. State recreational safety specialists urge all people who plan to spend time outdoors during these periods to wear blaze-orange or other brightly colored clothing.

